

Media Contact:

Sarah Ardalani Public Information Officer 213-974-3525 SArdalani@da.lacounty.gov

Twitter: @LADAOffice

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Gang Members Sentenced for Pomona Drive-By Shooting

Two gang members convicted of shooting at a car and paralyzing a teenage girl were sentenced today, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Charles Chaiyarachta of the Hardcore Gang Division said Jarad Jacob Nava, 18, was sentenced to 162 years to life in state prison, while Alex Javier Sandoval, 22, was given a 30-year prison sentence.

Nava was convicted by a jury on Feb. 7 of four counts of attempted murder, and one count each of shooting at an occupied motor vehicle and possession of a short-barreled rifle or shotgun. Additionally, jurors found true gun and gang allegations.

Sandoval pleaded no contest on Jan. 21 to one count of attempted murder and assault with a firearm. The prosecutor said on Sept. 29, 2012, Nava and Sandoval drove up next to a car with four teenage girls inside and began shooting at the vehicle. Two of the girls were uninjured; however, two sisters were hit. One of the victims is now paralyzed from the chest down.

Detectives linked the defendants to the crime through witness accounts, according to the prosecutor. The defendants were arrested on Oct. 5, 2012.

At trial, the prosecutor argued Nava and Sandoval targeted the girls because they were either sisters or girlfriends of rival gang members.

The case was investigated by the Pomona Police Department.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's OfficeLos Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the <u>Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office</u> prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.